

# On Bicycles

by Kyle Carter

## **BICYCLE SAFETY**

Riding a bicycle is great fun and exercise. Still, riding a bicycle can be dangerous. Each year many bicycle riders are injured or killed.

As a bicycle rider, you have little protection if an accident happens. Knowing how to ride a bike safely can help you avoid accidents.



## **THE RIGHT BIKE**

A bike won't quite fit you like a glove. Your bike can – and should – fit you well. A good fit is important for safe riding. You should be able to touch your feet to the ground while standing astride the bike frame. If you can't do that, the bike is too big.

A big bike is the wrong bike. You are much more likely to fall from a bike that's too big.

## **CHECK IT OUT**

If the bike fits, check its condition. The handlebars need to be tight. The seat needs to be tight and set in a comfortable position. The brakes need to work well.

If a tire looks worn or has begun to leak, have it replaced.

Grease and oil keep certain parts of the bike moving smoothly. You can lubricate – grease and oil – your own bike after someone shows you how.

## **RULES OF THE ROAD**

If you ride a bike on the street, you are part of the traffic. Even as a bicyclist, you must obey traffic rules.

That means you must ride on the right, moving in the same direction as cars and trucks.

You must obey road signs and traffic signals. Be especially careful at intersections, the places where one street joins another.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3</b> <b>LA.A.2.2.1 Main Idea/Details Form B</b></p>
--

## **PLAYING IT SAFE**

You can do many things to ride your bike more safely. If you and a friend are riding bikes, always ride in single file. That gives cars more room to pass you. Never ride with two people on a one-seat bike.

Equip your bike with a horn or loud bell. Also, equip your bike or your safety helmet with a rearview mirror.

## **HELMETS**

One of the most important things you can do is wear a safety helmet. A helmet, carefully fit to your head, can help save you from serious injury.

Bicycle helmets are light but strong. In case of an accident, let the helmet take the beating instead of your head!

## **USING YOUR HANDS**

You need to keep your bike under control at all times. That requires careful and constant attention. It also requires both hands on the handlebars.

If you are making a turn in traffic, however, you need to use your left arm to signal. Be sure that you know how to make the different signals for both right and left turns.

Make a right turn with your left arm raised from the elbow. Make a left turn with your left arm straight out.

## **BIKE LIGHTS**

If you must ride at night or in dim or fading daylight, be sure your bike is well lit!

In darkness you must have a front bike light that can be seen for at least 500 feet. You need a rear red reflector light that can be seen 600 feet away. You also need side reflectors on your bike's spokes and reflectors on your bike pedals. Wear white or reflective clothing at night, too.

## **AVOID SURPRISE PROBLEMS**

You can reduce the chance of a surprise problem by not riding too fast for conditions. Hazards – things that are dangerous – are much easier to avoid if you have time to stop or swerve around them.

If you approach another biker or a person walking, pass on the left. Do not surprise them! Use your bell or horn, or speak to the person ahead.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3</b> <b>LA.A.2.2.1 Main Idea/Details Form B</b></p>
--

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the passage “On Bicycles”, then circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Which sentence BEST tells what the article is about?
  - A. It is important to ride a bike that has a rearview mirror.
  - B. Riding a bike that is too large for you is not safe.
  - C. It is important to know how to ride a bike safely and have fun.
  - D. Riding a bike at night can be dangerous and is not a safe thing to do.
  
2. What is the FIRST step in buying a bike?
  - A. Check to see that the seat is comfortable for you.
  - B. Check to see that the bike has reflectors.
  - C. Check to see that there is a horn or bell on the bicycle.
  - D. Check to see if you can touch the ground with your feet.
  
3. What should you do if a tire looks worn?
  - A. You must lubricate the tire.
  - B. You must replace the tire.
  - C. You must replace the bicycle.
  - D. You must grease and oil the tire.
  
4. What is the MOST important lesson learned in the article?
  - A. Bicyclists should follow all the safety rules.
  - B. Always chose a bicycle that fits you well.
  - C. Bicyclists should always obey the rules of the road.
  - D. Bike riders must keep their bikes under control at all times.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3</b> <b>LA.A.2.2.1 Main Idea/Details Form B</b></p>
--

5. If the article, “On Bicycles” needed a new title, which would be best?
- A. “Bicycling is Fun”
  - B. “Bicycle Safety”
  - C. “Avoiding Accidents”
  - D. “Obey Safety Rules”

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3</b> <b>LA.A.2.2.1 Main Idea/Details Form B</b></p>
--

**Answer Key – On Bicycles**

LA.A.2.2.1: The student identifies the following from a passage: main idea or essential message, relevant supporting details and facts, and/or chronological order or other sequence of events.

1. Which sentence BEST tells what the article is about?
  - A. It is important to ride a bike that has a rearview mirror.
  - B. Riding a bike that is too large for you is not safe.
  - C. **It is important to know how to ride a bike safely and have fun.**
  - D. Riding a bike at night can be dangerous and is not a safe thing to do.
  
2. What is the FIRST step in buying a bike?
  - A. Check to see that the seat is comfortable for you.
  - B. Check to see that the bike has reflectors.
  - C. Check to see that there is a horn or bell on the bicycle.
  - D. **Check to see if you can touch the ground with your feet.**
  
3. What should you do if a tire looks worn?
  - A. You must lubricate the tire.
  - B. **You must replace the tire.**
  - C. You must replace the bicycle.
  - D. You must grease and oil the tire.
  
4. What is the MOST important lesson learned in the article?
  - A. **Bicyclists should follow all the safety rules.**
  - B. Always chose a bicycle that fits you well.
  - C. Bicyclists should always obey the rules of the road.
  - D. Bike riders must keep their bikes under control at all times.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3</b> <b>LA.A.2.2.1 Main Idea/Details Form B</b></p>
--

5. If the article, “On Bicycles” needed a new title, which would be best?
- A. “Bicycling is Fun”
  - B. “Bicycle Safety”**
  - C. “Avoiding Accidents”
  - D. “Obey Safety Rules”